

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of cutting a multilayer structure according to claim-1 27, wherein the push cutter ~~has a normal~~ is held at ambient temperature.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of cutting a multilayer structure according to claim-1 27, wherein the push cutter is a belt-shaped cutter having both ends connected together endlessly.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of cutting a multilayer structure according to claim 5, wherein the push cutter has an angled edge shape having at least one side surface inclined.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of cutting a multilayer structure according to claim-1 27, wherein the multilayer structure is in form of sheet.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of cutting a multilayer structure according to claim-1 27, wherein the multilayer structure is a cup or tray.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of cutting a multilayer structure according to claim-1 27, wherein the multilayer structure is a pouch.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of cutting a multilayer structure according to claim-1 27, wherein the intermediate layer includes at least a gas shut-off layer.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of cutting a multilayer structure according to claim-1 27, wherein the intermediate layer includes at least an oxygen absorbing layer including an iron series deoxidizing agent.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of cutting a multilayer structure according to claim-1 27, wherein the intermediate layer includes two-layer structure composed of an oxygen absorbing layer and a gas shut-off layer.

13-26. (Cancelled).

27. (New) A method of cutting a multilayer structure composed of a plurality of resin layers so as to provide a predetermined shape, comprising the steps of
compressing and deforming a multilayer structure, while extending respective layers of the multilayer structure to provide a reduced thickness portion, so that an upper layer bites into a lower layer by pushing a push cutter, by a predetermined amount, into the multilayer structure supported by a cutter receiving portion, in a fused state above a melting point temperature of at least one of the resin layers forming the multilayer structure;

then cooling and hardening the resin material constituting the multilayer structure below a melting point thereof; and

then push-cutting the compressed reduced thickness portion until the push cutter abuts against the cutter receiving portion so as to converge an intermediate layer and surface resin layers of the multilayer structure to the abutting portion of the push cutter and the cutter receiving portion.